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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **ISIS PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.** [US/US]; 2292 Faraday Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92008 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **ECKER, David, J.** [US/US]; 1041 Saxony Road, Encinitas, CA 92024 (US). **GRIFFEY, Richard, H.** [US/US]; 360 Barsby Street, Vista, CA 92084 (US). **SAMPATH, Rangarajan** [IN/US]; 12223 Mannix Road, San Diego, CA 92129 (US). **HOFSTADLER, Steven, A.** [US/US]; 5014 Viewridge Way, Oceanside, CA 92056 (US). **MCNEIL, John** [US/US]; 427 Retanheim Way, LaJolla, CA 92037 (US).

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(74) Agent: **LEGAARD, Paul, K.**; Cozen O'Connor, 1900 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 (US).

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD FOR RAPID DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF VIRAL BIOAGENTS

(57) Abstract: Method for detecting and identifying unknown bioagents, including bacteria, viruses and the like, by a combination of nucleic acid amplification and molecular weight determination using primers which hybridize to conserved sequence regions of nucleic acids derived from a bioagent and which bracket variable sequence regions that uniquely identify the bioagent. The result is a base composition signature (BCS) which is then matched against a database of base composition signatures, by which the bioagent is identified.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/09802

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : C12Q 1/68; C12P 19/34; C07H 21/02; G01N 33/00

US CL : 435/6, 91.1, 91.2; 536/23.1; 436/94

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 435/6, 91.1, 91.2; 536/23.1; 436/94

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 6,258,538 B1 (KOSTER et al) 10 July 2001 (10.07.2001), column 21, line 28 to column 23, line 67.	1-16, 22, 23 ----- 17-21
X --- Y	JURINKE et al. Detection of hepatitis B virus DNA in serum samples via nested PCR and MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry. Genetic Analysis: Biomolecular Engineering. 1996, Vol. 13, pages 67-71, see entire document.	1-4, 6, 7, 10-16, 22-24 ----- 5, 8, 9, 17-21
Y	AMEXIS et al. Quantitative mutant analysis of viral quasispecies by chip-based matrix assisted laser desorption ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 09 October 2001, Vol. 98, No. 21, pages 12097-12102, see entire document	1-24
Y	US 6,268,131 B1 (KANG et al) 31 July 2001 (31.07.2001), see column 3, lines 10-22.	17-21



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



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* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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Facsimile No. (703) 872-9306

Authorized officer

Jeffrey Fredman *J. Roberts for*
Telephone No. (571) 272-1600

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US03/09802

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

EAST, MEDLINE, BIOSIS, CAPLUS

search terms: MALDI, TOF, Mass, Spectrometry, virus, viral, HBV, HIV, HCV, PCR, polymerase, chain, reaction